

Dear Ramaz Family,

We very much appreciate the response of parents to today's difficult circumstance. At this time, we would like to update the community on a number of important issues.

Because we continue to receive reports of additional ECC & Lower School students becoming ill, as well as the first reports of illness in the Middle School, **the ECC, Lower School, and Middle Schools will be closed tomorrow, Thursday, December 10, in order to try to halt transmission of the illness.**

The Upper School will be open on tomorrow, Thursday, December 10. While there are no reported cases of related illnesses in the Upper School, we are carefully monitoring the situation. **Should the situation change between now and tomorrow morning, we will be in touch.**

Highly-specialized cleaning crews are working through the night and during tomorrow to sanitize all areas and surfaces in the Lower School building. Additional specialized cleaning will take place tonight in the Middle School and Upper School buildings.

These decisions were made on the advice of our consulting pediatricians.

We strongly urge Upper School parents who also have children in other divisions who are ill to keep their Upper School children home. Upper School teachers will be available to assist in making up work or exams.

Based on the symptoms that have been reported, the illness appears to be a form of viral gastroenteritis. However, we are still waiting for the results of culture tests, which take several days, before a final determination can be made by the NYC Department of Health.

The New York City Department of Health, Division of Environmental Investigations, indicated that there were no toxins in the food served in the Lower School and they are now checking to determine if there was transmission of a virus from any of the food workers.

We remind you that anyone who experiences symptoms of projectile vomiting, low grade fever, and diarrhea should be kept hydrated. In event of any additional symptoms, parents should consult their pediatricians or their personal doctors.

Again, because this is a highly contagious virus, we strongly urge you not to permit your children to go on play dates or gather in one another's homes.

We also ask you to continue to let us know who has been affected and when. Please contact Johanna Shlomovich, Director of Student Services, at Johanna@ramaz.org with this information.

If you have any questions, please contact the school nurses:

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Thank you for your patience,
The Ramaz Administration